



Leicester  
City Council

## WARDS AFFECTED

### FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Council

24 November 2011

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Honorary Aldermen

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#### Report of the Director of Corporate Governance

#### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

To consider clarifying the criteria for appointment to the position of Honorary Aldermen.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

That any nominations for the title of Honorary Aldermen be required to meet the criteria identified in this report.

#### 3. REPORT

- 3.1 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the City Council may 'confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of that Council but who are not then Councillors of the Council.'
- 3.2 Such a decision must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a special meeting of the Council. Thus, the title can only be conferred upon past Members of the Council who are not Councillors at the date of that meeting.
- 3.3 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide, does not, as such, have the right:-
- (a) to attend meetings of the Council or a committee of the Council; or,
  - (b) to receive any allowance or other payment under the Members Allowances Scheme.

3.4 The process has been well received since its introduction in 2006, however it is suggested that it may be appropriate to clarify the basis on which nominations are made with it suggested that:

- the title of Honorary Alderman should be awarded to a Councillor at the end of their front-line political career (i.e. they should not seek public office after being awarded the title if they should do so they should forgo the title).
- It should be awarded after significant service (for the avoidance of doubt this should be a minimum of 8 years as a Councillor); and
- the Councillor should not have previously held the position of Lord Mayor as former holders of this office are already recognised by the Council and the title of Honorary Alderman is to recognise those who have contributed but not have attained the title of Lord Mayor.

## **5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1. Financial Implications**

The only financial implication is the cost of the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, for which the council has specific statutory power to incur. This cost should not be significant and can be met within existing budgets.

Steve Charlesworth            Head of Financial Control

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

Legal implications are covered in the report.

Anthony Cross, Head of Litigation & Advocacy, Legal Services

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no climate change implications in relation to this paper.

Chloe Hardisty (Senior Environmental Consultant)

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within the Report	References
Equal Opportunities	<b>N</b>		
Policy	<b>N</b>		
Sustainable and Environmental	<b>N</b>		
Crime and Disorder	<b>N</b>		
Human Rights Act	<b>N</b>		
Elderly/People on Low Income	<b>N</b>		
Corporate Parenting	<b>N</b>		

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None

**9. CONSULTATIONS**

**10. REPORT AUTHOR**

John Thorpe  
Democratic and Civic Support Manager